

Unfamiliar homeopathic connections

The Homeopathic Revolution

Why Famous People and Cultural Heroes Choose Homeopathy

— extracts from Dana Ullman's new book

Do you know what Charles Dickens, Paul Gauguin, Charles Darwin, John D. Rockefeller and seven popes have in common? They've all used and advocated homeopathy. This eagerly awaited book is full of the most fascinating anecdotes about less well-known aspects of the famous, sometimes iconic, sometimes infamous characters of the last 200 years.

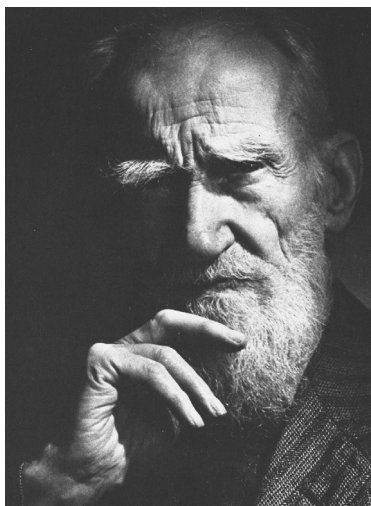
Dana Ullman, America's leading spokesperson for homeopathy and the author of ten books on the subject, has kindly given us permission to print a few selected biographies as 'tasters' for his new book which deserves a place in everyone's Christmas stocking.

From Chapter 3: Literary Greats

George Bernard Shaw

George Bernard Shaw (1856–1950) was one of England's most respected playwrights. Shaw is the only person ever to have won both a Nobel Prize (Literature in 1925) and an Academy Award (Best Screenplay for *Pygmalion* in 1938). In his play *The Doctor's Dilemma* (1906), Shaw showed the dilemma that doctors inevitably face between their need to care for their patients and their need to practise, often using dangerous drugs and performing unnecessary operations in order to earn a livelihood.

In the play's preface, Shaw wrote: The test to which all methods of treatment are finally brought is whether they are lucrative to doctors or not. It would be difficult to cite any proposition less obnoxious to science than that advanced by Hahnemann, to wit, that drugs which in large doses produced certain symptoms, counteract them in very small doses, just as in modern practice it is found that a sufficiently small inoculation with typhoid rallies



our powers to resist the disease instead of prostrating us with it. But Hahnemann and his followers were frantically persecuted for a century by generations of apothecary-doctors whose incomes depended on the quantity of drugs they could induce their patients to swallow. These two cases of ordinary vaccination and homeopathy are typical of all the rest. He continued:

Here we have the explanation of the savage rancor that so amazes people who imagine that the controversy

concerning vaccination is a scientific one. It has really nothing to do with science. Under such circumstances vaccination would be defended desperately were it twice as dirty, dangerous and unscientific in method as it really is.

Thankfully, Shaw goes on to assert that times and things are changing:

Nowadays, however, the more cultivated folk are beginning to be so suspicious of drugs, and the incorrigibly superstitious people so profusely supplied with patent medicines that homeopathy has become a way of rehabilitating the trade of prescription compounding, and is consequently coming into professional credit.

In 1932 Shaw wrote an essay, *Doctors' Delusions, Crude Criminology and Sham Education*, which included a story about the homeopathic treatment he received for a hydrocele. This accumulation of fluid around the testicle normally requires surgery, but Shaw experienced a rapid cure without recurrence.

Shaw once challenged Sir Almroth Wright, a noted conventional physician, to look into homeopathy's ability to cure many 'incurable' diseases. Wright expressed complete incredulity, while Shaw retorted that Wright had no scientific attitude or simple curiosity. This short conversation was a classic:

Almroth said, 'This thing is absurd and impossible; let me put it this way. Would you, Shaw, trouble to get out of your chair if I called from the next room, "Do come in here and see what I have done – I have turned a pint of tea leaves into pure gold."' Shaw responded back simply saying, 'Certainly I would.' (Coulter, 1994, 409.)



Hulton Archive/Getty Images

From Chapter 7: Musicians

Nicolo Paganini

Nicolo Paganini (1782–1840), the famous Italian composer who some consider the greatest violinist who ever lived, was a patient of homeopathy's founder, Samuel Hahnemann, MD. Paganini, like many people of his day, suffered considerably under conventional medical treatment. Hahnemann could not help but notice that all of Paganini's teeth had fallen out, his mouth had become ulcerated, and his jawbone was abscessed due to mercury treatment (probably resulting from being diagnosed with syphilis at an early age).

In choosing a remedy, Hahnemann considered Paganini's personal habits and appearance. There are various stories about Paganini's life that show him to be a man of great frugality. He was known to bargain incessantly for a lower price and to purchase used clothing. Once he purchased clothes, he would wear them and patch them continually, insisting that 'an old garment is an old friend'. This story is meaningful to homeopaths because it helps explain why Hahnemann prescribed homeopathic *Sulphur* for him.

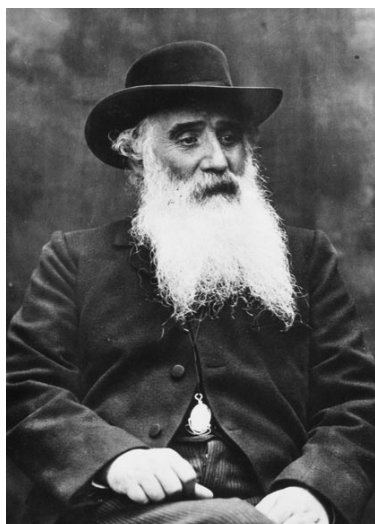
Because of Paganini's good looks and fame, women were very attracted to him. Hahnemann prescribed for him, but shortly afterwards, the doctor stopped treating the violinist-composer after Hahnemann determined that Paganini had gotten too familiar with his young wife, Melanie (Handley, 1990, 114). After Paganini's death, a love letter to Melanie Hahnemann was found among his possessions.

From Chapter 8: Artists and Fashionistas

Camille Pissarro

Camille Pissarro (1830–1903) is known as the father of Impressionism. He painted rural French life, particularly landscapes and workers in the fields, as well as scenes from Montmartre (a hill and community in Paris). He taught painting to Paul Cézanne and Paul Gauguin, among many others. Although he is generally not considered the best painter of the French Impressionists, he is commonly considered the main conceptualist of Impressionist theory.

Pissarro had a special love for homeopathy that started shortly after his father's death in 1865. His mother, Rachel, became quite ill for several months, and Pissarro sought homeopathic care for her with Dr Gachet. The results were so fast and so significant that both he and his mother developed a life-long devotion to homeopathy and Dr Gachet. Pissarro even became a lay prescriber of homeopathic medicines himself.



Archives Musée Camille Pissarro, Musées de Portofino, France

Pissarro had a special love for homeopathy

Pissarro was appreciative enough of Dr Gachet that he moved to the lovely town Auvers-sur-Oise just outside of Paris, where the physician had his practice and studio. Van Gogh and several other leading artists of that time followed them to this quaint French town. Gachet himself became an enthusiastic engraver, and although his work wasn't of the same high calibre as his friends, he gained some

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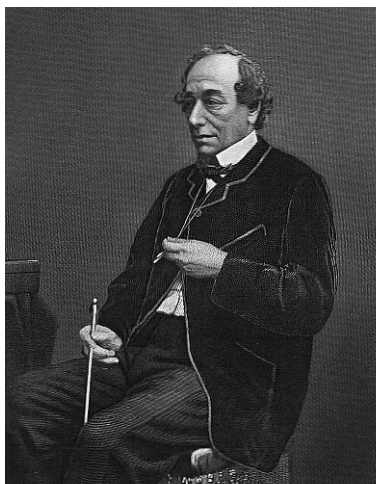
respect as an artist. Of additional interest is the fact that several of the Impressionists took up etching, working in Gachet's studio and printing their work with the doctor's press (Roe, 2006). Cézanne produced there an etching of Guillaumin, as well as a number of flower pieces arranged in Delft vases for him by the doctor's wife. Gachet was the first person to purchase a Cézanne painting.

It was Pissarro who recommended that van Gogh see the homeopath, even if Gachet's treatment began too late in van Gogh's disease. Pissarro encouraged many people to seek out homeopathic treatment. Pissarro wrote to his friend Octave Mirbeau, a journalist, novelist, and playwright, who was suffering from depression: 'What a pity that you have no confidence in homeopathic remedies. Seriously, my dear, I believe that you would be able to fight off these prostrations, this discouragement, this lassitude about all things. ... What a pity, I tell you because I have such confidence in it' (Pissarro, 1892).

Pissarro died in 1903 and is buried in Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris (where Samuel Hahnemann, MD, also rests). Although Pissarro sold few of his paintings during his lifetime, some have recently sold for around \$4 million. ➤

➤ From Chapter 9: Politicians

Benjamin Disraeli



Benjamin Disraeli (1804–1881) served in the British government for three decades; he was twice prime minister. His personal homeopathy was a respected Irish physician, Joseph Kidd, MD (1824–1918), who was taught homeopathy by Paul Francois Curie, MD, the French surgeon and physician who was grandfather of the famed Pierre Curie.

Paul Curie was brought from Paris to London in 1835 by his patron, William Leaf, a rich London silk merchant. But Curie was not brought there just to treat the rich: Leaf funded the first free dispensary for poor people. Then came the infamous Irish potato famine of 1845–1849, when Kidd was challenged to show that homeopathy can be effective in the most adverse conditions. He moved to the rural areas where the worst starvation was happening, and he kept an active record of all of his patients and their diseases and deaths. He recorded 1.8 percent mortality, while the local hospital's rate was 36 percent (Treuerherz, 1995, 42–75).

In 1871 Kidd's reputation for effectiveness improved even further, when he became the homeopath to Benjamin Disraeli, Lord Beaconsfield. Disraeli suffered from asthma, bronchitis, and Bright's disease. On the day of Disraeli's first visit (November 7, 1877), he wrote in his journal:

I had made up my mind never to create a word as to my progress or the

reverse, until I had given my new man a fair and real trial: I will tell you that I entertain the highest opinion of Dr Kidd, and that all the medical men I have known, and I have seen the highest, seem much inferior to him, in quickness of observation, and perception, and reasonableness, and at the same time originality, of his measures. (Treuerherz, 1995, 37)

Dr Kidd normally only saw patients in his home office, but he made a rare exception for Disraeli. In July 1878, Kidd had to go to Berlin to treat Disraeli's asthma and gout so that the Prime Minister could meet with the German leader, Bismarck.

There is even some mention of which homeopathic medicines Disraeli was given at different times: *Ipecacuanha* (ipecac root, a leading remedy known to cause nausea and vomiting and yet cure it in homeopathic doses), *Arsenicum* (arsenic), and *Kali bichromicum* (potassium bichromate, effective medicine for certain serious respiratory problems).

In 1881, during the final days of Disraeli's life, Queen Victoria asked Disraeli to see Sir Richard Quain, a conventional physician. Normally, the harsh and intolerant attitudes of the orthodox medical organizations of that time did not even

Kidd's reputation for effectiveness improved even further, when he became the homeopath to Benjamin Disraeli

allow conventional physicians to treat homeopathic patients, but Disraeli was a rare exception. Even in Disraeli's last days and nights, Kidd, Quain, and a third doctor (Mitchell Bruce) provided him with constant attention without worrying or arguing about homeopathic and orthodox doctors working together.

Dr Kidd's obituary, published in *The Lancet*, was one of the few times in the nineteenth century that this medical journal ever published something positive about a homeopath:

He always held fast to the opinion that there is a truth contained in the doctrine of homeopathy which supplies a clue to the treatment of obscure cases. ... From an early period he adopted the practice of prescribing only one drug at a time so as to be better able to study the action of individual remedies. ... A large part of his success must be attributed to his careful survey of small details. (Kidd, 1918)

William Jefferson Clinton

Bill Clinton (1946–) was the forty-second president of the United States, serving from 1993



to 2001. He served five terms as governor of Arkansas. *Business Week* reported that a presidential aide would buy homeopathic medicines at a New York homeopathic pharmacy to treat the president's sinus problem (Toy, 1994). Although the press had previously reported that Clinton suffered from recurrent laryngitis, there seemed to be fewer references to this problem after these reports of homeopathic treatment.

It should also be noted that Clinton had a special interest in healthier eating than most previous American presidents. He was known to invite Dean Ornish, MD to the White House, on several

occasions. Ornish was a highly respected physician, nutritionist, and researcher known for his low-fat vegetarian and vegan dietary recommendations.

Clinton's wife, **Hillary Rodham Clinton**, is presently in her first term as the junior U.S. senator from New York. George Stephanopoulos, Clinton's former press secretary, wrote a book, *All Too Human: A Political Education*, in which he noted that Hillary sent him some homeopathic medicines to keep him healthy:

Health-care reform's slow death in 1994 was particularly disheartening. We fought hard, but were losing. Hillary tried to keep our spirits up. Seeing that I was fluey from fatigue, she sent me a carton of homeopathic cures one day accompanied by a note: 'We need you healthy for health care!' (Stephanopoulos, 1999, 297)

It is not surprising that during Clinton's presidency, he established the White House Commission on Complementary and Alternative Medicine.

From Chapter 11: Corporate Leaders' and Philanthropists' Support for Homeopathy

Robert Bosch

Robert Bosch (1861–1942) deserves a separate listing from other European corporate leaders and philanthropists due to his considerable interest in and support for homeopathy.

Bosch was founder of Robert Bosch GmbH, the large manufacturer of auto parts, appliances, and power tools in Germany. Besides creating quality products, the Bosch company has had a long history of providing a healthy work environment with good ventilation and lighting for its employees, and it was the first company in Europe to establish the eight-hour workday (rather than ten or twelve hours).

Bosch grew up in southern Germany in an area that was previously called the Kingdom of Württemberg. Queen Olga of Württemberg (1822–1892),

a Russian princess, married Charles I, who became the king of Württemberg. Queen Olga, most of the aristocracy, and even most of the surrounding rural population in this area became strong advocates for homeopathy in the late 1800s. Only the local university remained resistant and closed its doors to teaching homeopathy or to having dialogue with homeopathic doctors.

Bosch was indignant about the unjust way homeopathy was treated by conventional physicians

Bosch grew up using homeopathic and natural medicines. As an adult, Bosch's physician and homeopath was Dr Heinrich Goehrman, who was also a very close confidant to him for more than fifty years. Bosch liked the fact that Goehrman had a special appreciation for homeopathy but was also interested in the broad field of natural medicine and environmental health.

Very committed to creating a homeopathic hospital, Bosch spent many decades and millions of

German marks to make it a reality. The Robert Bosch Hospital was finally opened in 1940 in Stuttgart. Bosch insisted that 'homeopathy is preferable for internal illnesses' and for chronic diseases, though he also asserted that any proven treatment should be a part of this hospital (Heuss, 1994, 510). Bosch was indignant about the unjust way homeopathy was treated by conventional physicians, especially when they suggested that homeopathy was unproven or was superstition.

On his 80th birthday, Bosch was conferred an honorary doctorate of medicine by the medical faculty of the University of Tübingen. He was heartened to find that this medical school was finally beginning to appreciate homeopathic and natural medicine.

Today, the Robert Bosch Foundation is one of the largest German charities associated with a private company. The foundation funds projects involved in health and science, education and society, and international relations. Its Institute for the History of Medicine houses many of the original papers and ephemera of homeopathy's founder, Dr Samuel Hahnemann. □

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